

Central Region scholars win at college

Families Now and Forever congratulates the Central Region graduates on the double accomplishment of attending college and receiving a DCFS Scholarship. These young people stood out in their schools and communities as examples of what hope and hard work can bring about. Right about now the reality of college life is probably sinking in for these students. There remains plenty of road ahead, but with perseverance and the help of dedicated caregivers, caseworkers and others they are on the right path.

Nicholas Becker

Nicholas Becker, 18, is a resident of Galesburg. He is a 2003 graduate of Galesburg High School and received a college preparatory curriculum. In addition to participating on the soccer team and working at a grocery store, Nicholas has volunteered for a variety of community initiatives. He now attends Western Illinois University, majoring in Pharmacy.



Carletha Currie

Carletha Currie is a 20 year old from Peoria. Currently, she is attending Illinois Central College as a Nursing major and has a G.P.A. of 3.5 on a 4.0 system. She plans to become a Registered Nurse. She is currently employed at Luebke, Baker and Associates.

Dana Dawson

Dana Dawson is a 2002 graduate from Quincy Senior High School. She is currently enrolled at Quincy University as a Nursing major and maintained a 3.3 G.P.A. on a 4.0 system. Dana is also employed with Adams County Homemaker Health Services where she is highlighted as an exceptional employee with outstanding work ethics.

Amanda Harris

Amanda Harris, 18, of Camp Point is a 2003 graduate of Central High School. She plans to attend Western Illinois University. Amanda was in the National Honor Society and has a 3.9 grade-point average on a 4.0 system. She was Secretary to the Drama Club, a wrestling cheerleader and also served as the Children's Church Coordinator. Amanda now attends Western Illinois University.

Jeff Hurt

Jeff Hurt, 18, of Champaign, is a 2003 graduate of Central High School. Jeff was active in high school football, baseball, the spring musical, bass choir, concert choir, show choir, madrigal choir, and peer mediation. He attends Parkland Community College and plans to major in Business.



Zachary Knight

Zachary Knight, 18, of Decatur, is a graduate of Stephen Decatur High School with a G.P.A. of 4.290 on a 5.0 system. Zachary was involved in the Young Scholars program. He was also an Eagle Scout and volunteer Junior Scoutmaster. He now attends the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, majoring in Animal Science.

Scholarship winners (con't.)

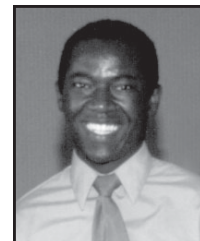
Kyle Koester

Kyle Koester is 18 years old and a resident of Cissna Park. He is a 2002 graduate of Christ Lutheran High School. He is currently attending Western Illinois University and majoring in Psychology. Kyle was involved in athletics, drama, and choir in high school.



Douglas Parter

Douglas Parter, 18, graduated from Charleston Community High School. His G.P.A. was a 5.12 on a 5.0 system and his composite ACT was a 26. Douglas was a very active member of the Student Council. He was also an active member of the Charleston Community Church. Now he is a pre-med student at University of Illinois at Urbana and he desires to work in the area of neurology.



Beatriz Mattingly

Beatriz Mattingly is 21 years old and a resident of Joy. She attends the University of Illinois at Chicago and plans to major in Political Science, and Spanish and Latin American Studies. Her eventual goal is to go into foreign affairs to a Latin American nation. She has tutored both college and elementary students. Her many activities include intramural athletics, International Justice Mission Club, the Capital Hill Club and the Women's Real Life Club.

Tamara McCarty

Tamara McCarty is 20 years of age and a resident of Bloomington. She currently attends Heartland Community College and plans to transfer to Illinois State University after getting her Associates degree. Her eventual goal is to attend University of Illinois to pursue her Law degree. She plans to practice law in the criminal justice field.



Jennifer Peryam

Jennifer Peryam, 20, studies at Eastern Illinois University. In high school, she was active in numerous activities including school band, her church youth groups, and captain of the track team. Before transferring to EIU, she was involved with the college newspaper at Illinois Central College and concert band. Her college G.P.A is 3.27 on a 4.0 system.

Heather Powell

Heather Powell, 20, of Findlay, is a 2003 graduate of Okaw Valley High School. She was an honor student with a 3.59 G.P.A. and a member of the National Honor Society. She is employed at the Eagle Creek Resort in Findlay. She plans to attend Lakeland Community College for 2 years and then transfer to Eastern Illinois University to complete her B.A. in Human Services.



Fallon Nicholas

Fallon Nicholas is a graduate of Peoria Heights High School, where she participated in the accelerated program. While waiting to attend college, Fallon maintained employment at Marshall's clothing store. Fallon now attends Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in the fall of 2003.

Magdalena Roberts

Magdalena Roberts, 18, resides in Charleston and attended Rantoul Township High School District 193. She was a member of the National Honor Society and participated in varsity Soccer, varsity cheerleading, tennis, marching band, concert band, music council, and the Student Council. She plans to attend the University of Illinois or Yale University and major in Journalism.

Scholarship winners (con't.)

Ryan Tamburini

Ryan Tamburini, 18, of Clinton, was born in Tijuana, Mexico. His high school G.P.A. was 3.0 on a 4.0 system and he had a composite score of 25 on his ACT. He volunteered as a group leader for the YMCA and has participated in the Angel Tree Christmas Program as well as food fund drives at his church. He is the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, where he now attends classes. Ryan plans to major in Speech Pathology.



Youth Advisory Board honors students who stayed on track

The Central Region Youth Advisory Board held their annual graduation party for all graduates currently or formerly in DCFS care. The party honored all DCFS youth within Central Region who earned a GED or graduated from high school, college, or a trade school within the past year. The Youth Advisory Board looks forward to seeing all the graduates next year.

This year's event was held in the train depot at Peoria Wildlife Prairie Park with the Class of 2003 motto being "We Are All Little Engines Who Can."

Among the 66 guests, there were fourteen honored graduates: one college graduate, one GED recipient and twelve high school graduates. The graduates were presented with gift cards from Penney's, a certificate of merit and a graduation keepsake.

The keynote speaker was Elizabeth Collier, a 2003 graduate of Illinois State University. Elizabeth was raised in the foster care system and related the story of her family as well as the keys to finding her success. Elizabeth's address was heartwarming and very inspirational to everyone present. Following the program, a picnic supper was held and after a torrential downpour, everyone was free to enjoy the park.

Upcoming Advisory Council Meetings in Central Region

Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council

February 27 ~ Bloomington
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Illinois Adoption Advisory Council

December 5 ~ Bloomington
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

February 6 ~ Springfield
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

These council meetings are open and all are invited to attend.

Please call the Office of Foster Family Support Services at 217-524-2422 for more details on the locations.



Central Region Training Calendar

FosterPRIDE In-Service Training

All licensed foster parents and adoptive parents are welcome to attend any or all of the PRIDE In-Service Trainings to enhance their skills and meet yearly training requirements.

Module 1 - *The Foundation for Meeting the Developmental Needs of Children* (Four 3-hour sessions = 12 training hours)

Module 2 - *Using Discipline to Protect and Nurture* (Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

Module 3 - *Child Development* - New module being written

Module 4 - *Child Sexual Development and Sexual Abuse* (Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours)

Module 5 - *Supporting Relationships Between Children and Their Families* (Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

Module 6 - *Working as a Professional Team Member* (Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

Module 7 - *Promoting Children's Personal & Cultural Identity* (Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours)

Module 8 - *Promoting Permanency Outcomes* (Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

Module 9 - *Managing the Fostering Experience* (Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours)

Module 10 - *Understanding the Effects of Chemical Dependency on Children & Families* (Five 3-hour sessions = 15 training hours)

Pre-Registration is required for all classes.

Contact the number listed for your area.

Central Connections

Sponsor

Deborah Kennedy, DCFS
Central Regional Administrator

Regional Reporter

Mary Katherine Dixon
DCFS Child Welfare Staff
Development Coordinator
1806 Woodfield Drive
Savoy, IL 61874
Phone: 217-278-5300
Fax: 217-278-5323
E-mail: Mdixon@idcfs.state.il.us

Call with foster parent association news and schedules of local training, features on foster families and community members working for children, photos and news articles and supports all foster families can use.

Educational Advocacy

Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours

It is mandatory for one foster parent in each family to attend Educational Advocacy Training in order to be re-licensed. Educational Advocacy Training is offered following each Foster PRIDE/Adopt PRIDE training and many additional times. This six hour course covers information foster parents need to know so that they can advocate for their foster children's educational rights and needs.

Peoria Area 888-507-7433

EAST MOLINE *BHC Outreach Ctr.*
Nov. 20 & Dec. 4 (Thu) 6-9 p.m.

GALESBURG *Holiday Inn Express*
Dec. 11 & 18 (Thu) 6-9 p.m.

MACOMB *TBA*
Nov. 10 & 17 (Mon) 6-9 p.m.

PEORIA *Prof. Park Plaza*
Nov. 6 & 13 (Thu) 6-9 p.m.
Dec. 6 & 13 (Sat) 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Springfield Area 888-817-1825

JACKSONVILLE *TBA*
Nov. 11 & 18 (Tue) 6:30-9:30 p.m.

JERSEYVILLE *Super 8 Motel*
Dec. 6 & 13 (Sat) 1:30-4:30 p.m.

QUINCY *The Crossing*
Nov. 15 & 22 (Sat) 1:30-4:30 p.m.

SPRINGFIELD *LLCC*
Nov. 1 & 8 (Sat) 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Champaign Area 888-467-6065

BLOOMINGTON *Comfort Inn*
Nov. 17 & 14 (Mon) 6:30-9:30 p.m.

CHAMPAIGN *Empl. & Training Ctr.*
Nov. 22 (Sat) 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

DECATUR *Decatur Civic Center*
Dec. 20 (Sat) 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Peoria Area 888-507-7433

Module

GALESBURG - Lutheran Social Svc.
Nov. 4, 11 & 18 (Tue) 6-9 p.m. 4

PEORIA - Lutheran Social Services
Nov. 5, 12 & 19 (Sat) 6-9 p.m. 5

MACOMB - TBA
Nov. 12, 19 & Dec. 3 (Wed) 6-9 p.m. 6

Springfield Area 888-817-1825

Module

SPRINGFIELD - Lincoln Land Community College
Dec. 6 & Dec. 13 (Sat) 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 4
9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Champaign Area 888-467-6065

Module

DANVILLE - Community Church of God
Nov. 6, 13 & 20 (Thu) 6:30-9:30 p.m. 2